

grown to the point, however, where it is impractical to have an elected governing board." Please listen to that. It has grown impractical to have an elected governing board. "The regents should have exceptional qualifications in order to guide the direction of this multifaceted institution." That was Tiemann's commission back in '68. Another commission report, national, on the study of higher education in 1984 said this, "It would be essential that members of the Board of Regents have statewide rather than local or regional loyalties." I'll repeat, "statewide rather than local or regional loyalties."

SENATOR BARRETT PRESIDING

SENATOR BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR RUPP: Since my time is running out, I want to get right to the heart of the issue from the group that was appointed by the Governor last year or year before, Education Commission says, "The heart of the problem, however, is that few governing board members, presidents or faculty, will volunteer to terminate their own institutions or programs." Now in light of the budget problems we're having, listen to this: "Even if they secretly agree that termination is justified, they would prefer to put the blame elsewhere, but some colleges or whole colleges are going to have to be closed or merged. To continue public subsidy for all activities without regard for quality or possible duplication will only spread declining resources over increasingly mediocre institutions or redundant programs and services. The issue facing state leaders and the academic community as how to accomplish the necessary retrenchment, yet protect basic state interest." I'd like to depoliticize this a little bit for you...

SENATOR BARRETT: Time is up.

SENATOR RUPP: ...because last year we heard the comment that Governor Kerrey would be a kingmaker with this. Now that he is a lame duck Governor, that suspicion should be removed and I wish you'd seriously consider this proposal. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Rupp. Senator Hoagland, please.